

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 10208 011842Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 CAB-02

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 CIEP-01 FAA-00 MCT-01 L-03 /078 W

----- 001613

R 010950Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7910

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10208

MONTREAL FOR USREP ICAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, PINS, PK, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN AIRLINES HIJACKING

REF: A. STATE 239459, B. ISLAMABAD 9726, NEW DELHI 13873

1. AS WE SUSPECTED THEY WOULD (REF B), PAKS ARE CONTINUING TO PLAY THEIR HANDLING OF HIJACKING CASE VERY CLOSE TO THEIR CHESTS. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFFS SEPTEMBER 30, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) HAYAT MEHDI IN EFFECT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIJACKERS WERE FROM KASHMIR, BUT WAS UNWILLING TO SAY ANYTHING BEYOND THIS OTHER THAN THAT THE INTERROGATION TO DETERMINE THEIR MOTIVES WAS STILL GOING ON.

2. MEHDI WAS, OF COURSE, VERY MUCH AWARE OF GOP OBLIGATIONS UNDER HAGUE CONVENTION AND DID NOT NEED OUR PROFERRED REMINDERS ON THIS SCORE. HE SAID GOP WAS STUDYING CONVENTION AND PAK LAWS AND SAID IT SEEMED EVIDENT THAT IF HIJACKERS WERE NOT EXTRADITED, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE PUT ON TRIAL IN PAKISTAN. HE IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED PAINFUL DILEMMA FACING GOP, BUT WHEN PRESSED
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 10208 011842Z

ABOUT LIKELY PAK DECISION RETREATED INTO ASSERTION THAT

NOTHING COULD BE DETERMINED UNTIL INVESTIGATION COMPLETED.
HE DID NOT OFFER ANY THOUGHTS AS TO WHEN THAT MIGHT BE.

3. MEHDI SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF G. K. REDDY'S ARTICLE
IN "THE HINDU" (REF C). TOLD ABOUT IT, HE SAID ONLY
THAT INDIANS HAD NOT RECENTLY APPROACHED THE GOP
ABOUT THE DISPOSITION OF THE HIJACKERS. (INDIAN DCM
DOSHI TOLD US LATER THE SAME DAY THAT THE PAKS WERE
REMAINING COMPLETELY MUM ABOUT THE MATTER ANER SAID HE
INTENDED TO RAISE THE SUBJECT TODAY WITH MEHDI BEFORE
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HEADS OFF WPLH AGHA SHAHI FOR TYE
SALAL DAM TALKS WITH NEW DELHI.) WHEN WE ASKED MEHDI
WHETHER HE THOUGHT HIJACKING ISSUE MIGHT COME UP DURING
SHAHI'S VISIT TO INDIA, HE REPLIED IN SAME (FOR HIM,
UNCHARACTERISTICALLY) RETICENT SPIRIT THAT HE HAD NO IDEA.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

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